

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 27, 2017
TIME: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
MAIN LOCATION: California Department of Transportation
Division of Engineering Services
1801 30th Street, Room 102 (Farmers Market 1 Building, 1st Floor)
Sacramento, CA 95816
VIDEO CONFERENCE LOCATION: District 12 Office, Room 333
3337 Michelson Drive, Irvine

Action items in bold text

I. Call to Order

- A. Self-introductions – See sign-in sheet.
- B. Changes to Agenda – No change
- C. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (08/25/17)

Shira Rajendra provided minor comments.

Tom Ostrom asked about the previous question regarding the grind and groove specification on rural bridges. **Mark Reno to provide additional, specific information regarding the issue.**

II. DES/ACEC Updates

- A. General (Shira Rajendra)

Shira Rajendra provided the following updates:

Due to SB1, CTC approved adding \$3.4 billion of new capital projects to the SHOPP

Caltrans is developing a Statement of Work template for use on full service A&E contracts. The template is expected to be ready by the end of the year.

With the additional projects added to the SHOPP, Caltrans is seeking a budget amendment for the 2017/2018 fiscal year to allow for hiring additional staff and A&E contracts. The amendment is anticipated by January but will depend on the legislature. Next year's budget will include the required budget.

Vong Toan is retiring. Vong was a pioneer in project management for Caltrans and was the Program Project Management Office Chief. The committee applauded Vong's work in furthering the profession and wished him well in his retirement.

Outreach was held on October 23 for District 59 Structure Design Services. Contracts expected to be advertised in December.

- B. Technical: Memo To Designers, Technical Research Workshops (Tom Ostrom)

Tom Ostrom provided the following updates:

METS and GS is splitting into two branches. Caltrans has interviewed for Division Chiefs but decisions have not been made.

Caltrans continues hiring for anticipated work load increase resulting from SB1.

Caltrans is working on the next edition of the Standard Specifications and Plans. Next edition will be the 2018 Standards. Specification development is focusing on Sections 47, 48, and 49. There is also an increasing need for mounting communication conduits on bridges.

The 8th Edition of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications is expected in November of this year. Caltrans is looking to adopt in the summer of 2018.

SDC 2.0 is expected to be released in the summer of 2018. SDC 2.0 will include an Intermediate Performance Objective for bridges.

Bridge Design Practice manual for abutments is approximately half completed.

Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC)

Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge is complete.

The bridge deck on the Laurel Street Bridge is being cast. The project used precast columns and girders to demonstrate ABC construction methods.

ABC-UTC conference will be held in Miami in December.

Updates to ABC guidance and information will be posted on the Liaison website.

Automatic notification services for guidance should be up by next meeting.

Consultants can sign up for email notifications for new bridge guidance.

AB262 was signed by the Governor. The bill includes requirements for disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions for certain materials and will require this information to be considered in the bid review process.

Jack Abcarius asked if Caltrans had heard any feedback on the new, plain-language specifications and indicated he had heard some negative reactions. John Babcock noted that he had not heard anything from the Structure Representatives and had not noted an increase in the number of claims. Tom Ostrom noted that the Standards will be getting bigger and will be broken into 2 books next issue,

Mark Reno brought up that on some local agency projects, the local agencies are requiring CASP certification to ensure ADA compliance. The certification requires a certified individual to review the project for compliance. Tom Ostrom noted that Caltrans requires the Districts to certify their projects for ADA. Mark indicated the concern would be whether such certification would be a HBP reimbursable expense for Local Agency bridge projects.

Robert Peterson would ask his staff if they have encountered this certification and report back to the group.

C. Project Development (Shira Rajendra)

All information is available in the lookahead report; currently 10 projects

Three projects are scheduled to be advertised in October but may get pushed back.

D. Local Assistance (Robert Peterson)

Robert Peterson provided the following updates:

LAPM Chapter 6 guidelines are being updated and are currently in internal review the update is expected to be rolled out by January. Office bulletins are being incorporated as well as the recent changes to what projects are eligible (low water crossings and Functionally Obsolete)

Funding is currently constrained due to the approaching new federal fiscal year.

Funding for local agency bridge projects is being held at \$300 million. SB 1 will not add more money for local agency bridges. Currently there are 18 years of projects on the books with the available funding.

Local Assistance is working with the local highway bridge committee. The committee is not programing all projects due to funding limitations and the projects must go through a competitive process. Details for eligibility being worked out. An eligibility list will be developed every year. Currently there are six to eight projects that are ready to go but cannot be programmed into the FTIP.

Pavement projects are taking priority for local agencies due to the metrics of SB1.

Projects will receive PE funds but its being pushed out based on funding availability. Projects no longer automatically programmed.

Because of the funding, Local Assistance has been reorganized and is reducing staff

Caltrans does not have oversight on SB1 funding. Bridge projects funded by SB1 will not have Caltrans oversight

E. Statewide ACEC Committee (Gary Antonucci)

Statewide committee met in September. Gary Antonucci provided the following updates:

There have been some problems with contract procurement from the local agencies. Local Assistance has been providing extensive training. There will no longer be exceptions; adherence to the guidelines will be required. Local agencies must complete a set of forms to show they are following guidelines

Caltrans Audits/Investigations is requiring increased documentation for financials. This can be difficult for smaller consultants. Webinar training is available. Rollout of local agency requirements is expected in January. Strict compliance will be enforced and if there is one member of the team who is not compliant, the whole team will be rejected. If a firm has suitable financials from a previous submittal, they are good for the fiscal year. DPAC has posted the list of firms with suitable financials at http://www.dot.ca.gov/audits/docs/caltrans_ICR_acceptance_log_9-1-17.pdf

Mike Keever has volunteered to be a judge for the Engineering Excellence Awards -

F. State Transportation Innovation Council (Gary Antonucci)

Partnership between FHWA and Caltrans - funding available for innovative initiatives

Presentations to be made at APWA conference in November

Looking for other conferences, funding is available

III. Subcommittees

A. Accelerated Bridge Construction (Gary Antonucci)

The subcommittee is arranging a “lessons learned” workshop from practicing professionals. Date set for December 20. Michael Baker International will be presenting.

The subcommittee is also looking at possible presentations for the Liaison committee to discuss connections and details. This will be no sooner than January.

There is a Caltrans questionnaire for ABC candidates that is included in the APS guidelines. A checklist has been developed that provides a scoring process. Working on better ways to compare apples to apples (hard cost vs soft cost). Need for ABC is often driven by permitting and other soft costs.

There is a national drive to develop new and lighter materials for construction.

B. CMGC/Design Build (Mark Reno/Sudhakar Vatti)

Mark Reno updated the group on the development of the Placer County guidelines for CMGC. These guidelines will need to be approved by FHWA. Other agencies are seeking legislation to use CMGC has a design/bid process.

C. BIM (Shawn Cullers/ Gudmund Setberg)

Shawn Cullers updated the group that Gudmund Setberg had been identified as the Caltrans representative that would be working with the BIM Subcommittee.

Shawn had met with the Autodesk Representative to discuss where Autodesk was moving with the software side of the industry.

Tom Ostrom noted that Chad Baker, Office Chief of Office of Data Services and Technology (ODST) is working on incorporation of GIS Spatial data, which could be incorporated into the subcommittee.

D. Technical Committee (Jack Abcarius)

The subcommittee continues to wait for technical items.

Mark Reno indicated that they recently had an issue come to light that the dimensions on the ST10 barrier are incorrect. **Mark to provide additional information to the subcommittee.**

Rob Stott updated the group that they had completed tining on FRP decks with no issues. The Contractor had to adequately prepare the tining, including a low profile on the bridge.

E. Training/Webinars/Seminar (Y Nien Wang/Emil Vergara)

There are no events scheduled for the remaining of the year. Next year is expected to be busy with a Design Build workshop and PCMAC presentation.

Winter Training is expected to occur on April 24. This year’s topic will be Bridge Rehabilitation and Bridge Removal. The group discussed incorporating consultant information into the presentation.

IV. Discussion Items

- A. Jack Abcarius asked if there was a method to allow small subconsultants without the required FAR financials and financial history to be reimbursed as a direct expense. This was discussed in the group. No method of billing as a direct expense is known and the Safe Harbor Rate would apply in this situation.
- B. Mark Reno brought up that there have been situations where they have had previous contracts that did not include the current financial forms and whether a Contract Amendment would require the updated forms (such as 10C).
- C. Rob Stott asked the group if they have had any issues with Common Law and construction inspection personal with limited hours that may impact their State retirement.
- D. The schedule for next year's committee meetings would be provided and would be similar to this year's schedule. Emil Vergara would send meeting requests to the committee members for dates that were available.

V. 2017 Meeting Schedule

~~January 27, 2017 (4th Friday)~~

~~May 12, 2017 (2nd Friday)~~

~~August 25, 2017 (4th Friday)~~

~~October 27, 2017 (4th Friday)~~